

While I am tired, I will be honoured and privileged to serve you and this community for another term.

To everyone who has worked tirelessly to ensure the JCA remain strong and visible inside and outside of our community, my sincere thanks.

*The President, seconded by Mr. David Sinclair, moved adoption of the foregoing report:*

*CARRIED.*

10. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

This has been a very productive year. Since the building opened its doors in August 1999, we have had to ensure that all sections of the JCA run with the best interest of the whole organization in mind. This is definitely beginning to take shape and we are encouraged by what is happening.

**PROGRAMS:**

This is an area that has improved 10-fold since our last Annual General Meeting. It was an area that presented an enormous challenge to us. We have had a great deal of meetings and planning sessions where we strategically planned how we were going to ensure that the JCA is in the forefront of the community. We intended to enshrine our status as an outstanding organization that has served the black community for almost 40 years, and intend to continue serving for many more 40-year periods. I am delighted to inform you that we are achieving that.

On January 2, 2000 our current Executive Director, Elaine Thompson joined the JCA. We hired Elaine because we wanted to have an Executive Director who had the very best interest of the JCA in mind and reflected that in her daily activities. She was ordained by fire since this was the year when we had to do our presentation to the United Way to outline our plans for the 2000/2001-2001/2002-years and secure increased funding. Her professionalism came through, we secured our funding and the United Way was very pleased with her performance.

**Executive Director's three-month review:** In accordance with her contract, the Management Committee had a mini-review with Elaine to hear her concerns and find out how we could help. She outlined to us

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what the challenges were and asked for our assistance. We reconfirmed our commitment to our goal of making the JCA more powerful and assured her that she has our support. We thanked her for the open lines of communication that exists with the Management Committee and indicated to her that the feedback we have been getting about her has been very positive.

**MINISTRY:** Four of us from the JCA went to visit with the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and Culture on Thursday, February 17, 2000. We spent about 40 minutes talking to the Minister, Ms. Johns and her assistants. We discussed Human Rights Commission issues, our being denied financial support through the Trillium Foundation, video on the history of the JCA and the loss of our Credit Union Charter. The Minister was attentive and helpful and she is someone that we can definitely talk with from time to time.

#### **DISTRESS FUND:**

We had a fundraising dance on March 4, 2000 and established a distress fund in the same month. We had our first meeting on April 11, 2000. We have fielded a lot of requests and although many have not met our criteria we have dispensed with \$500.00 of the \$2,083.00 that we raised. We will be working on the by-law for the fund shortly. The following is the basis on which the fund will be operated.

**Governance:** We discussed the who/what/where/why/timelines/fundraising for this fund. After a lengthy discussion on the above, taking into consideration the various kinds of help that are available to landed immigrants and citizens of this city, the criteria we decided on were as follows:

- . Natural disasters, fire, etc.
- . Life threatening health issues
- . Financial assistance to help in situations where incarceration appears to be unfair
- . Funeral assistance to people in extreme situations

**NOTE: All funds collected on behalf of disaster relief will go through the distress fund.**



**Timelines:** Once a request is received, we would

Be timely in disbursing the funds;

No investigation if case is in the news, publicly known, church helping, community worker, etc. - otherwise, we would try to validate claim.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** Beverley Thompson is our new Volunteer Coordinator. She will be coordinating volunteers for events and the coat-room during the cold season. Beverley is new to the JCA and has agreed to give us a minimum of one year's service in this position. I have asked all committee chairs to work with her closely during the transition period. Sheila Raymond has also agreed to be her mentor/guide until she is most comfortable in this position. We thank them both for their contribution to the JCA.

**ALL COMMITTEE MEETING:** I met with all the committees of the JCA (except the Youth Committee) on April 25, 2000. Each committee outlined what they had done in the past year and what their agenda is for the coming year. The sharing of information helped members who are not on specific committees to understand how things are going at the JCA. The offer of help and the wealth of experience that was in the room will definitely allow us to achieve our goals as long as we continue to work with the best interest of the organization in mind. **We are still in need of volunteers, please do not hesitate to join in.**

**YOUTH COMMITTEE:** There is a lot of work still to be done with this committee. However, as soon as a new chair is elected, there will be a meeting with the Management Committee to outline what the goal is for the coming year. We require a large Youth Committee that is active and relevant and always willing to participate in the activities of the other committees since that is how we are going to have the continuity that we require. There will be much better results from our Youth Committee in my report at our next AGM.

We have accomplished a great deal over the past year. When I became Vice-President a year ago, I viewed the JCA as a business with tremendous potential and I am pleased to report that today I can see our efforts unfolding in the right direction. The current board is an excellent one and together we have raised the bar on how we would like to see our organization operate. The ease with which we have accomplished our goals was very pleasing to me. To the chairs that are leaving - I wish you

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well and thank you for making the past year pleasant and productive. I am grateful that I had the chance to work with you and look forward to our long-term association as we continue to look after the JCA.

*The Vice-President, seconded by Mr. B. Carter, moved that the foregoing report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

# 11. ELECTIONS:

The President relinquished the chair to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Vincent Conville, who conducted the elections according to the general principles set forth by the organization, and reported the following results:-

## OFFICE

## ELECTED.

President	-	Herman Stewart	Acclamation
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Executive Secretary	-	Hector Gray	- " -
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Education & Cultural Committee Chair	Barry Morrison
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Fundraising Committee Chair	Barbara Thomas
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Membership Services Committee Chair	Karen Smith
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Youth Affairs Committee	Patrick Chambers
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Trustees	Byron Carter	Gifford Walker
	Vincent Conville	Carol Plunkett
	Linda Gray	

The Nominating Committee Chairperson requested that the following communication which was read by the executive secretary, be recorded in the Minutes in view of the fact that Mr. Chambers, a candidate for the position of Youth Affairs Committee chair, was unavoidably absent from the meeting:

From Mr. Patrick Chambers, dated May 26, 2000:

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"My name is Patrick Chambers. I have been a member of the JCA for about a year and a half, during which time I have been active in the Youth Affairs Committee. The committee has developed a comprehensive document on its goals and objectives. However, these goals and objectives have to be executed.

Upon being told by the outgoing chair, Ansel Bather, that he will not be seeking re-election I felt compelled to run since I am conversant with the goals and objectives of the committee and was instrumental in drafting this document. At the present time the committee has shrunk to the faithful few, but this group of individuals have the drive, aspirations and chemistry to drive the youth committee to set a blazing trail in the new millennium.

Unfortunately because of a prior important engagement I am unable to be with you today. However, if elected, I will strive to increase the youth membership to one hundred as this was one of the Youth Affairs Committee's foremost and most important goals. I will ensure that our presence is felt in the community at large by being active in and with existing organizations that are trying to achieve similar goals. Our presence has to be felt in the schools, churches, community centres and wherever our people are.

If I can help just one of our youths to see the light as I did I think that I will have done my job. With helping one individual I will have in a sense helped a whole nation.

In closing If the membership deems another individual more worthy of the position I will work just as hard to support this individual. Please accept my sincere apology for my absence."

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS REPORTS:

The following reports were presented during the counting of votes during the election process:

#### 12. BUILDING COMMITTEE:

Building renovations have been completed, except for landscaping and some other minor refinements, and the building committee with over 20 members is up and running, looking after the maintenance and operations of the centre.

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Supervision of events, particularly those run by outside groups or individuals is demanding on committee members who must maintain strong visibility to ensure order and security both in and out of the building.

The building has passed municipal inspections by the building, public health and fire marshal's offices, paving the way for making application for a permanent liquor licence.

The members' lounge will be transferred into a fully equipped lounge with pool table and its own bar, and a satellite dish installed for the big screen television set donated to the centre.

Hall rentals have picked up substantially since last year, and it appears, will continue to do so. Remedial work is necessary to the pavement around the building, and the roof is showing signs of old age and may have to be renewed in a few years.

Storage space limited, and is critical to the operation of the facility. Only essential items should be brought into the building. Items such as exercise machines, etc. if not being used should be disposed of.

*Mr. Soares, seconded by Mr. Jos Thompson, moved that the foregoing report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

13. WOMEN'S COMMITTEE:

The Women's Committee continues to work within the framework of its 5-Year Plan.

The committee submits articles on women's issues in the "Women's Space of the JCA "In Focus" newsletter:-

August, 1999 - Part II of "Why are Women so Tired?" by June Rogers.

November, 1999 - Mary Seacole: The Jamaican Nightingale

February, 2000 - Mary Church Terrell

Committee members continue to practice public speaking through the use of topics. Some of the topics were "Year of the Older Person" and "Empowerment of Women".



The committee arranged guest speakers for alternate quarterly meetings.

At the meeting of February 27, our guest speaker was Kathy Nelson who spoke about the recently formed Caribbean Chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association.

JCA celebrated Black History Month on February 18<sup>th</sup> with the successful launch of the video: "Strong Jamaicans, Stirring Times - a History of Organized Labour in Jamaica". Members of the Women's committee were represented on the committee that organized the launching of the video.

On March 8, the committee participated in International Women's Day Celebrations sponsored by the Women's Intercultural Network (WIN). At this event Sandra Carnegie-Douglas, a member of the Women's Committee and past Vice-President of the JCA was the recipient of the Vara P. Singh award.

On March 19, the JCA Women's Committee held its own International Women's Day Celebration. The theme was "Women Recognizing Women." The Committee honoured thirty (30) women for their outstanding contribution to the organization and the community.

On April 15, the Women's Committee organized a membership forum. The theme was "Planning a Path for Women in the New Millennium: The Role of Women in the JCA and the Wider Community" Topics presented included:

- . Leadership and Decision Making
- . Violence Against Women
- . Social Justice

The town hall style discussion was lively with active participation by all. It was a successful event although the attendance was not very high.

Other activities:

September 23, 1999 - Alzheimer Society Coffee Break  
Continue to support Eva's Place  
Continue to donate to the PACE annual toy drive  
Represented on planning committee for JCA'S Annual General Meeting

The committee's plans for next year include the following:

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Continue implementation and evaluation of our 5-Year Action Plan  
Underground Railroad Heritage Tour jointly with the Education &  
Cultural Committee

Follow-up on issues from the Membership Forum

Thanks to the JCA Board of Directors, staff, members and friends of JCA  
for their continued support. Special thanks to members of the Women's  
Committee for continued support and dedication.

*Ms. Powell, seconded by Ms. Theo Briscoe, moved that the foregoing  
report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

14. EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE:

The Education and Cultural Committee is comprised of eighteen  
committed members, and has achieved most of the goals established at the  
beginning of its mandate year.

Highlights:

Dr. Avis Glave's presentation at a quarterly meeting on School  
Councils

A successful Money Management Seminar

A workshop dealing with Wills and Estate Planning

Re-organization of the Saturday Morning Upgrading Program.

Establishment of a Visions Science Club

Intervention at the York District School Board on behalf of a  
student at Huron Heights Secondary School.

Official opening of The Marcus Garvey Resource Library

A millennium project: Tour of the Underground Railroad which is  
being organized for July 1 & 2, 2000 A.D.

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Major step not achieved was revival of the JCA "I Have a Dream Scholarship" - this will be back on the agenda for the 2000 - 2001 year.

The new committee will continue above programs

The committee will continue to hold seminars especially topics that are of concern and vital importance to the JCA membership.

Committee will continue to liaise with other organizations sharing similar educational goals and become more active in educational matters, especially those which affect, or have the potential to affect Black students.

It was most rewarding to work with all members of the Education and Cultural Committee.

*Mr. Conville, seconded by Ms. Cyndi Anderson, moved that the foregoing report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

15. CARIBBEAN CANADIAN SENIORS

Started off the year by being happy and grateful that we are now in our own facilities.

We continue to increase in numbers and the greater the numbers, the happier we are. The seniors are getting more involved and are participating in community affairs.

Our choir is becoming well-known and many requests to perform are being received. We will endeavour to improve in order to be able to accommodate the requests.

We have had various speakers in to continue to educate us in topics such as pension benefits, etc. The women attend "Women's Wellness Group" and the men also attend "Men's Issues Group" on Thursday mornings.

We had an overnight trip to Ottawa to participate in a protest against Bill 11 and the Health Care System as a whole. The trip was worth the while, and was enjoyed by all.

*CARRIED.*  
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On June 2, we will be going to the Queen Elizabeth Building at the CNE to attend a forum, "People in Motion".

Our 'Yard sale' and 'tea leaf reading' will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please come and patronise us and help us to grow.

*Ms. Nelson, seconded by Ms. D. Bailey, moved that the foregoing report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

16. CAPITAL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

Overview: A reconstituted committee began meeting in April of 1999. Over the one-year period we raised \$102,688 from corporations, individuals and functions. The pursuit of government funding has been fruitless.

Development of Materials: We have developed a "Sponsor Benefits" document and a "Slide Presentation Kit" for use with prospective individual and corporate donors. As well, we have pushed for the development of the JCA web site and have found someone to do it.

Corporate Donors: About 25 companies were approached. The ones that have come through in the last year giving from \$200 to \$22,000 (Motorola) are as follows: Advent Contractors, Branville Contractors, Don's Meats, Grace Kennedy, Jamaica Mortgage Corporation, Jamaica National Building Society, J. P. Bicknell Foundation, Labour Council of Metro Toronto, Patty Palace, the Jamaica Gleaner (N.A.) Inc., U.A.I.A., Vere Tech, Victoria Mutual, and Western Union. The five major banks are not included in the total given in the overview. Their pledges were made and counted previously, although their final payments came in during the past year.

Individuals:

We have had donations from \$25 to \$5000 (Pamela Appelt), Again, we are not counting significant individual donations of previous years. In addition, 17 people were approached to host events to which they would invite prospective donors.

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Events:

Merritone Dance of last January and the Celebrity Brunch of last February were well supported and were successful financially. We are hopeful that the Golf Tournament planned for August 26 and the follow-up September 2 Presentations and dinner/dance will also be a success.

Future:

The committee plans to:

- a) repeat events that have been successful
- b) continue to search for opportunities to influence corporations and individuals to give
- c) remain open to suggestions and continue to brainstorm for other events; and
- d) persist in badgering the membership to open doors to their places of business for us.

*Ms. Collins, seconded by Mr. Fred Irving, moved that the foregoing report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

17. MOTION:

Re: Election Ballots:

*Mr. Jos Thompson, seconded by Mr. Byron Carter, moved:  
THAT all ballots used in the election process be destroyed:*

*CARRIED.*

18. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

There were no items of new business.

19. ADJOURNMENT:

*It was moved by Ms. Edna Smith-Bowes, seconded by Mr. David Sinclair that the meeting be adjourned:*

*CARRIED.*

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Minutes of Annual General Meeting, May 27, 2000.

22.

The meeting adjourned at the hour of 4:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

HERMAN STEWART,  
President

HECTOR A. GRAY,  
Executive Secretary